



Grade 7 Writing

Expository Scoring Guide March 2015

Grade 7 Writing Expository Prompt

READ the following quotation.

A friend is a gift you give yourself.
—*Robert Louis Stevenson*

THINK carefully about the benefits of friendship.

WRITE an essay explaining the importance of having a good friend.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Score Point 1

The essay represents a very limited writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is inappropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies that are only marginally suited to the explanatory task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the controlling idea is missing, unclear, or illogical. The writer may fail to maintain focus on the topic, may include extraneous information, or may shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the essay. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random or illogical way, making one or more parts of the essay unclear or difficult to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is weak. The essay is ineffective because the writer uses details and examples that are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient.
- ❑ The essay is insubstantial because the writer's response to the prompt is vague or confused. In some cases, the essay as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be vague or limited. It reflects little or no awareness of the expository purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may impede the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer has little or no command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.

Once upon a time me and my friend were at the Park and we were having a lot of fun until my friend moved away. The day my friend moved away I felt so sad because he was the only friend I had, so I knew my friend will find someone else, so that same day I knew I had to get a new friend because if I didn't I knew I would just lock myself in my room until my friend comes back. The next day my mom took me to the Park and I saw a little boy on the swings, so I knew this was my chance to get a new friend. Then when I was walking towards the boy I asked him what's your name he said Jason, he said. Then he asked what's your name I told him Tom I told him you want to be my best friend he said sure why not. Then I knew I can get a new friend by myself.

Score Point 1

Instead of explaining the importance of having a good friend, the writer relates a story about a time he met a new friend at the park. Although the writer addresses the topic of friendship, the organizing structure of the response is inappropriate to the expository purpose. The controlling idea is missing, and the development is weak because the details included serve only to tell what happened (Then he asked what's your name I told him Tom I told him you want to be my best friend he said sure why not.) Overall, the writer's response to the prompt is confused and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

It is important to have a good friend they are like a extra family member they are also super supportive with many thing like relationships and family issues but if a friend is good to you. you have to be supportive of them to.

Finding a new best friend is like finding a perfect girl friend there are multiply out there but there is only that one that well stick by your side for ever and ever untill death but just like the real one there is a lot of fake ones out there to But you have to trust people Cause they can leave in a flash.

the main point of this Paper is be careful of the people that you trust you might you pick some one good but then your bank is empty and the person you trust is gone.

Score Point 1

In the first paragraph of the essay, the writer lists several reasons why having a good friend is important. In paragraphs two and three, however, the writer's focus shifts: he contrasts real friends who can be trusted with fake friends who can't and then cautions against being too trusting. These paragraphs contribute only marginally to this expository task, impeding development and making the essay insubstantial. In addition, the lack of sentence boundaries further contributes to the weak presentation of ideas. The writer strings multiple sentences together without punctuation, causing serious and persistent disruptions in the fluency of the writing. Overall, this essay represents a very limited writing performance.

Friendship is important you can get help from friends. Friendship creates teamwork which makes you stronger.

One thing I know about friends is giving presents is better than receiving a gift from others. Friendship is anywhere you go school, store, everywhere people should be friends with people who are responsible trusted, honest. That makes a good friendship.

Friendship is very important, without friendship it would not be the same. I imagine how it would be like or look, this is why friendship is important.

Remember friendship is very important if not, you would not even have friends to talk to no more.

Score Point 1

The controlling idea of this response is unclear. The writer presents a series of unrelated statements about the importance of friendship. Although these statements are generally related to the prompt, the abrupt shifts from statement to statement cause the writer to present ideas in a random, unfocused way. The repetition of the phrase “friendship is very important” also weakens the progression of ideas. In addition, the development of ideas is ineffective: some ideas are undeveloped, and some are simply vague (without friendship it would not be the same. Imagine how it would be like or look). Overall, these weaknesses result in a very limited writing performance.

It's important to have a good friend

Having a good friend it's really important because you can really trust him or her a lot. Having no friends is really difficult because you can't spend time with someone or have fun and feel alone. For example you go to the park with your friends and have some fun, but in that moment you feel that your not alone. A good friend can be there for you always when you feel alone or sad. Some friends go to your house to spend more time with you, even on your birthday. Almost all the people in the world have good friends that care for you now and then.

Score Point 1

In the first sentence, the writer seems to present the controlling idea that having a good friend is important “because you can really trust him or her a lot,” but the subsequent development is not related to this controlling idea. The writer shifts the focus by stating that having no friends is difficult because you can’t have fun and you feel alone. However, the example used to support this idea is confusing because it is focused on the positive effect of having friends (For example, you go to the park with your friends and have some fun, but in that moment you feel that your not alone). In addition, the progression and development are weak because the ideas don’t “fit” together, causing the essay to lack a purposeful direction. Overall, the writer’s confused response to the expository task causes the essay to be insubstantial.

Score Point 2

The essay represents a basic writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is evident but may not always be appropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is not always clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are only somewhat suited to the expository task.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the writer's controlling idea is weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of an effective controlling idea or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the flow of the essay or show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer uses details and examples that are not always appropriate or are too briefly or partially presented.
- ❑ The essay reflects little or no thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is sometimes formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise. It reflects a basic awareness of the expository purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are awkward or only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.

Having a Good Friend

The importance of having a good friend is having someone there by your side, whether your feeling down or just need someone to talk to.

Having a friend is important, because when your feeling down you'd want someone to talk to and help cheer you up. If your sad and angry having a friend close by who can make you laugh and smile is having a good friend / friendship.

Having a good friend has its benefits. For an example you can gossip, go to the movies, and sit together when your at school or work. It is nice to have a friend around because you can do many things with them. "A friend is a gift you give yourself." says Robert Louis Stevens.

These are some importances of having a good friend.

Score Point 2

The writer begins the essay by stating that "the importance of having a good friend is having someone there by your side." She offers general support for this controlling idea by listing the positives of having a good friend (there's someone to talk to and help you cheer up; you can gossip, go to the movies, and sit together), but none of these ideas is developed beyond a surface level. The progression stalls at times due to multiple restatements of the same broad view of friendship (having a good friend is important, having a good friend has its benefits). In addition, the concluding sentences do not contribute to the development, as the writer simply inserts the quotation from the text box on the prompt page, followed by the perfunctory statement "These are some importances of having a good friend." Overall, this essay represents a basic writing performance.

Have you ever felt like you don't need friends? Would you just want to not have to worry about losing them? Well in this essay, I will tell you the importance of having a good friend.

The first(1st) reason why you should have a good friend is that you would have someone to talk to and have some-one be there for you no matter what. Having some-one to talk to is really important because you get all the things out that you have inside of you.

It's always good to say things that are on your mind.

The next reason why good friends are important to have is that they help you through the hard times. They help you get through things that you couldn't by yourself, and if you could, it would be depressing. So having some-one to be there for you is really important.

The third reason why good friends are important is, they make you smile and change your mood to happy. Good friends make you feel good about yourself, they build you up, not tear you down. They also motivate you. And the last reason as to why good friends are important is that no-one want to be ALONE!!

Score Point 2

While it is clear that the writer believes that having a good friend is important, the essay lacks a clear controlling idea. He provides four reasons why friendship is important. Although all these reasons are connected to the prompt, they are only loosely connected to each other because the transitions (The first reason, The next reason, The third reason, And the last reason) are too perfunctory to show the relationships among ideas. The writer's wordiness and general use of language cause the development to be superficial (why you should have a good friend is that you would have someone to talk to and have some-one be there for you no matter what. Having some-one to talk to is really important because you get all the things out that you have inside you). The writer demonstrates an adequate control of sentences and command of conventions, but the minimal details and formulaic approach reflect little thoughtfulness.

The importance of having a good friend is you have to give respect, loving, and you have to keep each others secrets. like me and my best friend **Connie**. She is like a sister to me we have been best friends since first grade. I can trust her to keep my secrets and she respects me and I respect her we tell each other jokes. We always talk about going to prom and what dress we are going to wear. We tell each other what guy we are going to take or if it's just going to be us two going. See that's what a true friend is and hopefully we will always be best friends till the end. Then my best friend **Alicia** is like another sister to me. We have been best friends since first grade and we have been saying all of our life that we have known each other that we will go to each others wedding and she is a person I can trust.

Score Point 2

The writer describes two personal friendships to explain the controlling idea (the importance of having a friend is you have to give respect, loving, and you have to keep each others secrets). This organizational strategy is responsive to the expository purpose. The writer includes some specifics, but the development remains minimal because the details are too briefly presented to go beyond a superficial explanation. In addition, minor errors in conventions are evident, and an inconsistent control of sentence boundaries weakens the effectiveness of the essay. Overall, the writer demonstrates a basic writing performance.

It's great to have friends! Most of us have them. We need them in life. They're great to have, and they're fun to be around.

Friends are important to us! We have so many. They're very helpful, nice, and fun. They're there when you need them the most. Threw thick and thin. They help guide you, and support you! I couldn't think of life without them!

I have lots of friends, and they're very helpful! They're there threw the roughest times. We laugh together, cry together, even sing together. I'm very happy to have such amazing friends! You should be too!

It's very important to have friends! It's great to be honest to. And to love to. It's nice to have someone who defends you, and shares laughs with you! I couldn't imagine life without my friends in it!

Score Point 2

In this basic writing performance, the writer expresses a positive view of friendship, although the controlling idea is somewhat unclear. The writer includes many ideas about friendship, but the explanation of these ideas is limited by repetition and general word choice (They're there when you need them the most. Threw thick and thin... They're there through the roughest times). In addition, the progression of ideas is somewhat random and not always logical or controlled (It's very important to have friends! It's great to be honest to. And to love to). In addition, the repetitive sentence structure—short, declarative sentences—causes the writing to be choppy and weakens the overall fluency and flow of the essay.

Score Point 3

The essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is, for the most part, appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are adequately suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear controlling idea. Most ideas are related to the controlling idea and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. The essay is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay reflects some thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is original rather than formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific. It reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are varied and adequately controlled, for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates an adequate command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay.

True friends stick with us till the very end, and never let us fall. They help us through tough times and make us feel like kings and queens. Due to examples from my life and books it is clear that it is important to have a good friend.

It feels comforting to interact with our friends after a long and tedious day. I experience this feeling at lunch. Whenever I am with my friends, just being around them cheers me up. They give me the spark of happiness I need to get me through the rest of the day. This is not the only time when a good friend is needed.

The need to have faithful friends is also shown in many books. One being Divergent. In this book Tris Prior is put through a series of tests. These tests push her to her limits. Without her friends to hold her up, Tris would have cracked from the pressure that was placed upon her. It is vital to have true friends in our lives.

Good friends should be present in one's life to help them through multiple times. The importance of having a good friend is evident through my life and books. If anybody ever feels overwhelmed then they should talk to a true friend who cares for them. Talking to that friend will instantaneously make them feel better.

Score Point 3

In this satisfactory essay, the controlling idea is that good friends “help us through tough times and make us feel like kings and queens.” The writer uses two different organizational strategies to explain this idea. In the first body paragraph, she draws on a personal experience to recount how interacting with friends at lunch helps comfort her through tedious days. In the second body paragraph, the writer uses an example from a novel to explain how friends help a person through difficult times. Each of these paragraphs is developed sufficiently to add some substance to the essay. In addition, the writer strengthens the overall progression and development by clearly connecting these two paragraphs (This is not the only time when a good friend is needed). The writer’s word choice throughout is generally clear and specific, and she shows a good control of sentences and conventions.

Friends come and go, but nearly everyone has that one friend that they stick with for their entire life.

Technology is beginning to run our world, and people are trying to program things to do anything. But there is one thing that technology will never beat, and that is a good friend. A good friend is not programmed to say meaningful things to you. They feel with you, mourn with you, laugh with you, pick you up when you're down, and motivate you to be the absolute best you can be. No machine can do that.

Having one good friend can outnumber any regular friend any day. You trust them, and they trust you. You rely on them to make your day better, and they never fail you. Huge impacts have been made on many people all because they had a good friend there for them. They are someone that you can share experiences and secrets with.

I'm not saying that when you have a good friend it's going to be all dandy. You will run over rough patches, but that is meant to happen, nobody's perfect. But having a good friend can truly impact you and all the people around you.

Score Point 3

In this satisfactory writing performance, the writer uses a compare/contrast organizational structure to develop the concept that one good friend has more value than either technology or a “regular friend.” The development in each body paragraph starts with a “big” idea (there is one thing that technology will never beat, and that is a good friend; one good friend can outnumber any regular friend any day). The writer supports these big ideas with specific and appropriate details that add substance the explanation (A good friend is not programmed to say meaningful things to you; You rely on them to make your day better, and they never fail you). The development is thoughtful, and the ideas progress logically. In addition, the writer’s word choice and control of sentences and conventions are good.

Why do you think it's important to have a best friend? To me friends are supposed to be there to the end no matter how many mistakes they make.

My best friend's name is Karen. We've known each other since first grade. No matter how many times I get mad at her I always seem to forgive her in the end. We never let go of each other even when her boyfriend gets in the way. As we used to say Sister's before Mister's. And when she's mad I figure out a way to bring her back up and I know she does the same for me. We always keep each other's secrets and tell each other how our days been at the end. We love each other and nothing's going to separate us.

That's why I can trust her and be there for her forever, happy or sad my best friend is always going to be there for me and I'm going to do the same for her. Nothing can keep us bus buddies apart.

Score Point 3

In this engaging portrait of a friendship, the controlling idea is that “friends are supposed to be there to the end no matter how many mistakes they make.” To support this controlling idea, the writer describes all the emotions—anger, forgiveness, loyalty, trust, love—that are present in her relationship with her friend Karen. These details add some substance to the essay by communicating why the friendship is special. The sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay. Although some minor errors are evident, they do not disrupt the fluency of the writing. Overall, this essay reflects a satisfactory writing performance.

Good friends always stay by your side. You are never alone when a friend is nearby. Friends are those who feel comfortable to talk to you about things they wouldn't tell anybody else. Friends make you feel special.

Without a friend, you would feel lonely and afraid. In the movie *Finding Nemo*, Nemo was lost and scared in the aquarium. He wanted to get away from the strange place, and go back to his home. Other fish in the aquarium decided to help Nemo escape to the outside world with his dad, Carl, because they were good friends to Nemo. He would have never made it out without his friends' help.

It is important to have a friend because they make you feel special and happy. In the book *I Funny*, Jamie was alone and sad because he was paralyzed for life. He soon met a girl, Jamie felt he was able to tell her everything. Every conversation they had, again and again postponed its close. Jamie decided to tell her why he was paralyzed. She listened and cared like a good friend should. She made Jamie feel special.

Robert Louis Stevenson once said, "A friend is a gift you give yourself." His quote is true. Friends are the best gifts you can ever get. Friends are the peanut butter and you are the jelly. You have everything when you have friends.

Score Point 3

In this satisfactory essay, the writer believes that "good friends always stay by your side." He develops this idea by offering two examples, the movie *Finding Nemo* and the book *I Funny*. His specific explanation of the role friendship plays in each demonstrates that he has a good understanding of the expository writing task. Although the transition between the body paragraphs needs to be stronger to connect the two examples, the progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. The introduction is somewhat formulaic because the writer includes statements that merely preview what he's going to write about, but his overall response to the prompt is original. In addition, word choice is clear, and sentences are varied and controlled.

Score Point 4

The essay represents an accomplished writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is clearly appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is skillfully crafted because the writer uses organizational strategies that are particularly well suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear controlling idea. All ideas are strongly related to the controlling idea and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is unified and coherent.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is logical and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationships among ideas, making the writer's train of thought easy to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and well chosen, adding substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may choose to use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing or to connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is purposeful and precise. It reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a consistent command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the essay.

What makes a good friend a good friend? In life we have many friends, BFFs, acquaintances, and good friends. The ones that are good are the ones we should treasure. Good friends are people we can talk to and trust.

We need good friends so that we are able to talk to someone who will get us. When I'm at school and something is wrong with me I talk to my best friend. He always knows how to cheer me up and make me smile. I love that about him and without him I would probably be sad, mad, and cranky all the time. He helps me through my problems and I help him through his.

Good friends also give us someone to trust. In my old school we use to have these things called "trust falls." How you do a trust fall is you basically fall back and have to trust your partner to catch you before you hit the floor. It is scary at first but the more you keep doing it the more you trust the person. The exercise helps everyone get to know and trust their partner and gives them the chance to become good friends. This shows that trust makes good friends.

Good friends gives us someone to talk to and trust. In life there are a lot of phonies who pretend to be our friends but there are also real people who want to be our friends. Whenever you see one of your best friends give them a hug and say, "Thanks for always being there for me."

Score Point 4

The controlling idea of this thoughtful and engaging essay is that good friends "are people we can talk to and trust." The writer uses her own personal experience as the basis for the development of this controlling idea. In paragraph two, for example, she focuses on the ways in which talking to her best friend makes her feel better about herself and her life. In paragraph three, the writer explains how organized "trust falls," which she participated in at her old school, lead to good friendships. In addition, the introduction and conclusion add substance to the development. The precise word choice, well-controlled sentences, and strong conventions also contribute to the overall effectiveness of the essay.

Help you When you Fall

The only time you should be looking down on a friend, is if you're helping pick them up. A friend is someone who is always there for you. Friendship is an important thing to have in life no matter how old you are.

In Kindergarten, a friend was anyone who would play with you on the play ground. As long as they were there at recess, they were your friend. You could go up to anyone and say, "Hey! Do you want to be my friend?" and they would say, "Yes!" It used to be the simplest thing in the world, and you never had to worry about it.

However, now, in seventh grade, it is something much more complicated. In order to have a friend, you have to dress like them, act like them, and even talk like them. If someone is not your friend, it is because they are different than you. Some people who don't have friends will need them in high school, because high school is hard. You will need someone to pick you up when you fall.

As I said earlier, friendship is an important thing to have no matter how old you are. Even if they are there just to talk to you. They will help you. So next time you go to school, think about the real friends in your life, and how they've helped you.

Score Point 4

In this accomplished writing performance, the writer presents the clear controlling idea that "friendship is an important thing to have in life no matter how old you are." The essay is skillfully crafted; the writer reflects on what friendship means at different ages and how, despite the changing nature of friendship, its importance is unwavering. The transition he uses at the beginning of paragraph three allows him to contrast the simplicity of kindergarten friendships with the complexity of middle school friendships. The essay is unified and coherent, and its thoughtfulness demonstrates that the writer has a thorough understanding of the expository task.

Although the human race is uniquely strong and educated, we are not completely independent. But then again, nobody is. Everyone needs help once in a blue moon, and who better to help us than our own friends?

A friend knows you like the back of their own hand. They know the good and bad about you. They've seen you at your best and worst. They know your strengths and your weaknesses. That's exactly why it's vital to have a good friend in your life. They know the real you. There's simply no pressure being around them. Friends are a second family if you will.

Friends make your life easier and harder (in a good way!) A true friend will constantly encourage you to improve upon your weaknesses and push you to do your absolute best. They may pester and scold you one second, but the very next they're right by your side to help you. You can't stand to be with them or without them! They boost your confidence sky high and give you a daily dosage of a much needed laugh attack. Friends are so important because when you think you're all alone and no one is there for you, they are. They are your hope.

In one word, friends make your life: better. They are your second half when you're lonely, your parents when you need discipline, your siblings when you fight, and your teddy bear when you need comforting. Everyone should have a good friend.

Score Point 4

The writer of this accomplished essay takes a philosophical approach to explain the complex nature of friendships. She describes how friends play a fundamental role in a person's life (They've seen you at your best and worst; They know the real you; They boost your confidence sky high and give you a daily dosage of a much needed laugh attack). The explanation is enhanced by precise word choice and purposeful sentences, which are crafted to be parallel in structure. In addition, strong sentence-to-sentence connections make the writer's train of thought easy to follow. A consistent command of conventions further contributes to the overall effectiveness of this engaging essay.

Having a friend is like having a pillar supporting a house. Without it, the house would collapse. Just like that house, without a loyal, trustworthy friend in your life, you would collapse, too. It's very important to have a dependable friend because you will always need someone to rely on that you can trust.

Having a good friend means you can trust them with primarily anything, from holding your phone while you're running in a race, to holding your secrets from the rest of the world. If you have a real friend, you can trust them to not let you down. For example, if you forget a pair of shoes you need for basketball practice, you should be able to trust your friend to get them to you before practice starts. Also, you should always be able to trust them with your secrets. For instance, if you know a secret about someone you know you shouldn't tell anyone, but you want to, you should always be able to trust your friend to keep that secret. You should also always be able to trust your friend to listen to you if you need to talk to someone about your feelings or something. For example, if you have a crush on someone, but you don't want to tell everyone, just one person to get it off your chest, you should be able to trust that friend not to tell everyone. Without that one friend, you wouldn't have anyone to confide in, talk to, rely on, not let you down, or to trust.

Your friend is the pillar that holds your house (you) together even through the toughest storms. Friendship is important, and you don't want to lose it in that storm.

Score Point 4

In this accomplished essay, the writer establishes the clear controlling idea that “it’s very important to have a dependable friend because you will always need someone to rely on that you can trust.” In the introduction, the writer equates trust in a friendship to “a pillar supporting a house”—a thoughtful analogy that is carried through to the end of the essay. By sustaining focus on the idea of trust and including specific examples from real life to reinforce how trust factors into a good friendship, the writer is able to craft an essay that is unified and coherent. The sentences are purposeful and varied, each serving to build meaning and add depth to the development. Overall, the writing is thoroughly responsive to the specific demands of the prompt and reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose.